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## A note on the correct type of *Macabra* Bonaparte, 1854 (Strigidae)

by John M. Penhallurick & Steven M. S. Gregory

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*Macabra* as a generic (or subgeneric) name has been used recently by several authors. Wolters (1975-82: 71) listed *Macabra* as a genus including White-throated Screech-Owl *Otus albobularis*, Bare-shanked Screech-Owl *Otus clarkii* and Rufescent Screech-Owl *Otus ingens*. More recently, König *et al.* (1999: 35) stated: "We treat the American screech owls *Otus* as members of subgenera *Megascops* and *Macabra*, as they differ from Old World scops owls in having two songs." They also listed *Macabra albobularis* as a synonym of *Otus albobularis* (1999: 279)

The history of the name *Macabra* is complex. It was first used by Bonaparte (1854a: 112), where it is a *nomen nudum*. Bonaparte used it again in the same year (1854b: 541), on that occasion listing a number of species: "*hylophila* Temm.; *fasciata* Vieill.; *suinda* Vieill.; *melanota* Vieill.; *cayanensis* Gm.; and *albigularis* Cassin." These names include species from several different modern genera – *Strix* in the case of Rusty-barred Owl *Strix hylophila* Temminck, 1825 (1825: pl. 373); *Asio* in the case of *Strix suinda* Vieillot, 1817 (1817: 34) (= Short-eared Owl subsp. *Asio flammeus suinda*); *Pulsatrix* in the case of "*melanota* Vieill." (= *Noctua melanota* Tschudi, 1844 (1844: 266) = Band-bellied Owl *Pulsatrix melanota*); and *Otus* in the case of

*Syrnium albo-gularis* Cassin, 1850 (1850:124) (= White-throated Screech-Owl *Otus* [*Megascops*] *albogularis*). The other two names – *Strix fasciata* Vieillot, 1817 (1817: 21) of “Martinique”[?]; and *Strix cayennensis* J. F. Gmelin, 1788 (1788: 296) are indeterminable.\*

Clearly, the use of *Macabra* by Wolters (1975-82: 71), and König *et al.* (1999: 279) reflects the inclusion of *Otus albogularis* (Cassin, 1850) among the names listed by Bonaparte. The obvious diversity of that list, however, necessitates the subsequent designation of a type species. Ridgway (1914: 759), under the synonymy of *Ciccaba* Wagler, 1832, listed *Macabra* Bonaparte, 1854 and stated: “Type, as fixed by Gray, *Strix hylophila* Temminck.”

G. R. Gray (1855: 135) listed “*Macabra* Pr. B. 1853 (*Strix cayannensis* Gm.)”, but as we indicated above, *Strix cayennensis* J. F. Gmelin, 1788 is indeterminable. Thus this designation is invalid. Subsequently, G. R. Gray (1869: 49) listed “*Macabra*, Bp. 1853?” as a subgenus of “*Syrnium*, Sav.[igny] 1809” but did not list a type. This brings us to R. B. Sharpe (1875: 244) who listed *Macabra* under the synonymy of *Syrnium* Savigny, 1809, with “*S. hylophilum*” as the type.

Thus it appears that the correct citation for *Macabra* Bonaparte should be:

*Macabra* Bonaparte, 1854, *Revue et Magasin de Zoologie pure et appliquée*, sér. 2, 6, p. 541. Type, by subsequent designation (R. B. Sharpe, 1875, *Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum*, 2, Striges, p. 244), *Strix hylophila* Temminck, 1825.

This invalidates the use of *Macabra* by Wolters (1975-82: 71) and König *et al.* (1999: 35, 279) to refer to New World *Otus* species, notably *Otus albogularis*, *Otus clarkii* and *Otus ingens*, in each case better assigned to *Megascops*. Instead, *Macabra* Bonaparte, 1854 becomes a subjective junior synonym of *Strix* Linnaeus, 1758; or, if one accepts Wolters’ (1975-82: 71) treatment of subgenera under *Strix* Linnaeus, 1758, *Macabra* would become the monotypic subgenus for *Strix hylophila* Temminck, 1825, replacing Wolters’ *Tacitathena* Kelso & Kelso, 1937 (1937), an objective junior synonym of *Macabra*.

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\*Ridgway (1914: 765) listed *Strix fasciata* Vieillot, 1817 in the synonymy of *Ciccaba virgata virgata*, but preceded it with "(?)". Peters (1940: 162, footnote 1) said of Vieillot's name: "a species never identified". Of *Strix cayennensis* [nec *cayanensis*] J. F. Gmelin, 1788, Sharpe (1875: 272, footnote) stated: "The name of *cayennensis* is founded on a plate of Buffon's, [= "*Chat-huant de Cayenne*" in *Planches enluminées*, in *Histoire naturelle des oiseaux*, pl. 442] which I find it impossible to recognize." Michael Walters has pointed out to us that Gmelin's name is pre-dated by *Strix cayennensis* P. L. S. Müller, 1776, *Des Ritters Carl von Linné vollständiges Natursystem nach der zwölften Latinischen Aufgabe.*, suppl., p. 70, based on the same plate, and thus also, of course, indeterminate.

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## The status of the genus *Lugensa* Mathews and the birds collected by Carmichael on Tristan da Cunha in 1816-1817

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Olson (2000) has recently suggested that since the name *Procellaria lugens* Kuhl 1820 appears to relate to a misidentified drawing of the Mottled Petrel *Pterodroma inexpecta* (Bourne & Elliott 1965), the generic name *Lugensa* bestowed on the Kerguelen Petrel, then known as *Pterodroma lugens*, by Mathews (1942), must also be invalid. He omitted to mention that when I pointed out some references to him I